

CITY OF PIQUA, OHIO
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
JOINT MEETING OF STEERING COMMITTEE AND SUB COMMITTEES
APRIL 10, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT COMPLEX - COMMISSION CHAMBERS
201 WEST WATER STREET

Meeting Facilitator: Chris Schmiesing

Meeting Presenters: Aaron Domini, Kim Littleton

Committee Members Present: Parks and Recreation - Hans Lanfield, Wayne Willcox, Kathy Ventura, Scott Myers; Utilities - George Ashton, Dave Burtner, Ron Klima, Ed Krieger, Jan Koon; Redevelopment - Jim Cruse, John Martin, Brad Bubb, Lorna Swisher, Earl Slater, Stu Shear; Built Environment/Economic Development - Harry Bumgarner, Dan French, Dave Crawford, Dave Galbreath; Intergovernmental - Cindy Holtzapple, Judy Terry, Jack Evans, Ed McMaken, Martin Kim, Fred Enderle, Dean Burch; Social Services - Amy Welker, Brian Hamilton, Ginny Koon; Schools/Cultural Interests - Susan Walker Hemm, Andy Burner, Karl Wilson, Jim Oda; Transportation - Amy Havenar, Doug Christian, Steve Reindel

Guest Present: Matt Martin (MVRPC), Ian (ACP)

Meeting Minutes:

At 7:05 P.M. Chris Schmiesing welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for being in attendance. Mr. Schmiesing introduced Aaron Domini, Kim Littleton and Ian from ACP and turned the meeting over to Kim.

Kim Littleton reviewed the meeting agenda and gave an overview of the planning process to date. In particular Kim highlighted the information gathered from the public meetings and explained how that would tie into the next step in the process, developing the plan goals and strategies.

Aaron Domini explained to those present that they would be working by sub committee in small groups to develop the draft goal for each plan element. Aaron provided instructions on how the small groups were to complete their task and turned the groups loose to complete their work. First each group reviewed the ideas gathered from the public meetings that were specific to their focus area and identified any recurring themes. Next the groups used a straw man goal drafted by ACP and developed a draft goal for their plan element based upon the themes identified from the public meeting comments. Lastly the small groups brainstormed different strategies to achieve the stated goal.

At the conclusion of the hour long small group work session, an individual from each group came to the front of the room to share the goals and strategies drafted by their group (see exhibit 'A' and 'B' included with this document).

Kim Littleton closed the meeting by reviewing what happens next and thanking those present for being in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

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EXHIBIT 'A' - DRAFT GOALS

Built Environment

Preserve Piqua's small town feel through well balanced growth that mixes land uses, retains open space, and creates an inviting appearance using landscaping, attractive entrances, and community landmarks.

Community Services And Facilities

Support community improvements that build strong family neighborhoods, community pride and maintain high quality community services and facilities, including its school system, public safety, health care, recreational opportunities, cultural activities, technology and youth and senior services.

Economic Development

Piqua's strong local economy is enhanced through policies and programs that attract progressive new industries, increase the number of high paying jobs with benefits, retain existing small businesses, develop a strong workforce, increase the number of quality of life amenities, support home ownership and contribute to a vibrant downtown. This economic growth enables the City to retain its talented young citizens and attract young families to the community.

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EXHIBIT 'A' - DRAFT GOALS

Housing

Promote a diverse and quality housing stock to meet the needs of all residents, and enhance the housing supply through programs and policies that encourage homeownership, promote home maintenance, and support the responsible upkeep of all properties.

Implementation

Support neighborhood associations, widespread civic involvement, good communication between citizens and local government, and encourage strong leadership and effective inter-government cooperation to engender pride among Piqua residents.

Natural Environment

Celebrate Piqua's natural amenities by developing the waterfront and enhancing public access to the river corridor, and work to create new parks, trails, and tree planting initiatives throughout the City to further contribute to the community's quality of life.

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EXHIBIT 'A' - DRAFT GOALS

Redevelopment

Revitalize Piqua through initiatives that encourage redevelopment or reuse of existing structures, and implementation of building codes in an effort to contribute to a reduction in building vacancies.

Transportation

Develop and maintain a convenient, safe and efficient transportation system that effectively accommodates pedestrians, bicyclists, automobiles and public transportation.

Utilities

Maintain cost effective, customer responsive and reliable municipal utilities with a focus on improving aesthetics and public education while also planning for the future and identifying growth opportunities.

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EXHIBIT 'B' - DRAFT STRATEGIES

Housing

City needs to work with realtors, banks, neighborhood associations. To support/ promote/ develop programs to achieve the educational and economic goals to result in.

City of Piqua working with neighborhoods assoc's. realtors, and banks supports and develops educational & economic programs to promote diverse and quality housing with responsible property maintenance.

Redevelopment

The city of Piqua along with the Chamber and mainstreet Piqua.

Create inventory of buildings.

City of Piqua working with Mainstreet and Chamber of Commerce to develop programs that promote redevelopment or reuse of existing structures and deal with vacant properties.

Utilities

Evaluate new technology.

Automated meter reading - new services?

Master plans for municipal utilities.

Evaluate tailing ownership of private utilities (nat. gas, cable, wireless, phone)

Continue efforts to eliminate unnecessary poles & wires (DPAL & SBC)

Educate public on utilities (safety, how it works, etc.)

Plan for moth-balled power plant.

Pole relocations associated with improved gateways 4 - 6, & 7 - improved aesthetics.

Built Environment

Duplicate our strong "Mainstreet" program to provide services to the rest of the city.

Encourage private sector involvement in the City's problem properties task force.

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EXHIBIT 'B' - DRAFT STRATEGIES

Economic Development

City and Public should support and encourage GPN in order to achieve Ec. Dev. Goals.

City - devise policy to encourage revitalization of existing, older housing.

Provide more resources/ incentives to Edison/ DVS/ PHS in order to develop workforce, attract higher end employment.

Create a revolving loan fund to assist new as well as existing businesses.

Schools/ Culture/ Social

City to bring together all of Piqua's agencies and those agencies that serve Piqua citizens in the area of health and wellness services to develop a comprehensive health care plan/systems.

City should create a master plan to evaluate police & fire facilities, programs and personnel to ensure a safe community.

City create a social service levy and/or a general granting fund aimed at social and cultural services.

City to bring together all of Piqua's educational entities to develop a city education improvement plan.

Transportation

The City of Piqua will promote a transportation network that will improve flow through and around the city while considering existing and developing land use patterns.

Implement a policy to address thoroughfare improvements and their maintenance in order to protect city's investment.

Fix streets, east west thoroughfares.

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EXHIBIT 'B' - DRAFT STRATEGIES

Inter Governmental

Expand community involvement and improve neighborhoods through neighborhoods associations.

Initiate and expand programs such as Renew Piqua to promote civic involvement for community improvement.

City shall implement public education venues such as cable TV shows (city talk), televised commission meetings, meetings in the park, city web page & Piqua Spirit News Letter to improve communications.

Form inter governmental committee of school district townships and city to address common issues and goals.

Explore joint development agreements with adjoining city, township and the county to promote positive economic development for the region.

Promote positive events, issues, and actions in the community to engender pride among residents.

Parks & Rec/ Natural Environment

City should purchase substandard riverfront properties as they become available and redevelop them to improve riverfront aesthetics.

City Parks Dept. should add access points to the river trail to enhance accessibility.

The Parks Dept. should rent canoes in order to promote recreational use of river.

The City should acquire buildings along riverfront on East & Main Streets (distressed areas) to provide public access to river.

Piqua parks and recreation should develop Riverfront Parks or Linear Park Hub in order to provide recreation and access to the Great Miami River.

The City and Developers should develop a policy that puts great importance in natural resource amenities. Development in future development & re-development projects.

City/ Park Dept should build an aesthetically pleasing access to Linear Park in order to enhance public accessibility to the river corridor between Riverside & Lock 9 Park.

The City/ Parks Dept should redevelop under used parks within the city to improve aesthetics and usage.